

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 220505Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 1337

P 150918Z MAR 74

TO AMEMBASSY, TOKYO 751

INFO AMCONSUL, HONG KONG 85

UNCLAS NAHA 105

HONGKONG FOR EXIMBANK RAND

E.O. 11652: N.A

TAGS: BEXP, EING, ETRD, JA

SUBJ: MITI OFFICER SUGGESTS USG-GOJ NEGOTIATIONS TO ELIMINATE JIS

NON-TARIFF BARRIER

REF: NAHA A-41, DEC 20, 1973

1. SUMMARY. OKINAWA MITI OFFICER INFORMS CONGEN US WIRE SOON NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE HERE AND SUGGESTS THAT USG NEGOTIATE WITH GOJ TO REMOVE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS (JIS) NON-TARIFF BARRIER TO IMPORTS AND SALES OF U.S.- MADE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL OFFICER OF MITI'S PUBLIC UTILITY SECTION ELECTRIC APPLIANCES/ARTICLES INSPECTOR CALLED CONGEN MAR 13 TO ADVISE INFORMALLY THAT THE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND MATERIALS CONTROL LAW (DENKI YOHIN TORISHIMARI HO) WOULD COME INTO FULL EFFECT ON MAY 15, 1974 (TWO YEARS AFTER REVERSION). PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS LAW WOULD BE TO PROHIBIT SALES OF EXISTING ON-ISLAND STOCKS OF U.S.-MADE ELECTRIC WIRE AND CABLE, VALUED ACCORDING TO MITI SURVEY AT \$200,000 TO \$300,00, SINCE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TESTED AND CERTIFIED BY THE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS ASSOCIATION AND MITI. HE REQUESTED INFORMALLY THAT CONGEN ASSIST IN EXPORTING THESE STOCKS OF WIRE/CABLE TO "SOME SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNTRY".

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3. WE INFORMALLY ADVISED THE LOCAL OFFICER OF MITI THAT WE

COULD NOT HELP REEXPORT U.S.- MADE WIRE AND CABLE. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE OKINAWAN DEMAND FOR WIRE AND CABLE WAS SO GREAT THAT MITI MIGHT CONSIDER ELIMINATING THE JIS REQUIREMENT FOR U.S.- MADE ELECTRICAL GOODS FOR OKINAWA, OR ELSE SIMPLIFY AND EXPEDITE TESTING PROCEDURES, IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP DOWN SPIRALING PRICES. THE MITI OFFICER REPLIED THAT CERTAIN WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOJ TO ELIMINATE THE JIS NON-TARIFF BARRIER AND SUGGESTED THAT THE USG MIGHT CONSIDER SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT. MITI OFFICER'S REMARK PARTIALLY CONFIRMS REPORT FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BANK OF RYUKYUS THAT THEWEST GERMANS (FRG) ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF NEGOTIATING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WHEREBY THE GERMAN EQUIVALENT OF THE JIS TEST CERTIFICATE WOULD BE ACCEPTED AUTOMATICALLY WITHOUT FURTHER TESTING BY THE JIS AUTHORITIES AND BY MITI (SEE MEMCON THIS SUBJECT 13 MAR 74, BEING POUCHED). OKINAWA ELECTRIC SUPPLIES SALES ASSOCIATION HAD TOLD US DURING EXIMBANK V.P. RAND'S VISIT TO OKINAWA THAT MAINLAND JAPAN WIRE AND CABLE MAKERS HAD NOTIFIED THE ASSOCIATION THAT THEY COULD ONLY SUPPLY ONE HALF OF ESTIMATED OKINAWAN 1974 WIRE AND CABLE DEMAND OF \$30,000,000 (NAHA A-41). LOCAL OKINAWAN FIRMS HAVE BESIEGED US TO FIND SUPPLIERS OF U.S. WIRE AND CABLE, ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES STYMIED BY THE JIS NON-TARIFF BARRIER. RECENTLY, THREE MAJOR OKINAWAN FIRMS ABANDONED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON OBTAINING EXIMBANK CFF LOANS FOR OVER \$500,000 TO FINANCE IMPORTS OF U.S. MADE ELECTRIC WIRE, CABLE, AND APPLIANCES, BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WITH THE JIS NON-TARIFF BARRIER.

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